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## Taliaferro Collection (MSS 51)

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Manuscripts  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
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 Bowling Green, KY 42101

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 51 TALIAFERRO Collection**

½ box. 6 folders. 103 items. 1815-1956. Originals, typescripts and photocopies.

1942.21.1

***BIOGRAPHY***

Elizabeth “Betsy” M. B. Williamson (1800-1850) was born in Lexington, Kentucky, the daughter of David and Susannah Williamson. Betsy writes of her father taking produce on flat boats to New Orleans and of his engaging in Lexington lotteries. After a perusal of Betsy’s diary, it is evident that she had received a good education and was interested in cultural affairs, but nothing is known of her formal education. The Williamson family was living in Versailles, Kentucky, when Betsy and James Govan Taliaferro (1798-1876) were married there on May 7, 1819. Taliaferro moved to Louisiana from Virginia when a small child, and he came to Kentucky to study law at Transylvania College. Following their marriage they moved to Louisiana, where Taliaferro eventually served as a judge on the Louisiana Supreme Court. They had several children, but only six lived to maturity.

***THE COLLECTION***

The collection focuses on the diary (3 copies: 1 typescript, 2 carbons) which Betsy kept from March 20, 1839 to April 8, 1839, of a trip she made from Harrisburg [Catahoula Parrish], Louisiana, to Versailles, Kentucky, her former home. The original diary presumable is still the property of the Taliaferro family in Lafayette, Louisiana. She was accompanied by her husband; sons Robert, age 8, and David, age 4; and Kitty, the Negro nurse, on the steamboat trip to New Orleans for a short visit. Then, they retraced their route up the Mississippi River with Taliaferro disembarking at Natchez, Mississippi. Betsy and her party continued their steamboat journey to Louisville, Kentucky. From Louisville, they traveled by stagecoach to Versailles. Betsy described very vividly many aspects of the trip such as life in New Orleans, transportation on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, and steamboat races.

Included is a typescript manuscript based on the diary, with holographic notes, prepared by Mary T. Moore, first librarian of the Kentucky Library at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky, for the University of Kentucky Press Fellowship

Committee Contest, with notes and drafts of a letter to accompany the 1955 entry (12 items). Other materials collected by Moore are holographic and typescript notes for articles, speech, story, and Williamson family data (52); holographic and typescript biographical sketches taken from various sources (7); clippings and printed items, 1895-1956 (6); and a negative of a lottery ticket of David Williamson of Lexington, Kentucky, dated June 14, 1815.

Bibliographical Notes  
The Collection.

***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>TALIAFERRO Collection</b>	<b>1815-1956</b>	<b>103 items</b>
Folder 1	Correspondence of Mary T. Moore re: the Taliaferro Collection	1941-1955	22 items
Folder 2	Diary of Betsy Taliaferro (typescript and carbon copy)	March 20, 1839- April 8, 1839	2 items; 26 p. each
Folder 3	Diary of Betsy Taliaferro (carbon copy with holographic notes of Moore)	March 20, 1839 April 8, 1839	1 item; 85 p.
Folder 4	Manuscript prepared for University Press Fellowship Committee Contest and Moore's notes (holographic and typescript)	n.d.	12 items
	4a - Drafts of Moore's letter to the committee	1955	4 items
Folder 5	Moore's notes for articles, speech, and story (holographic and typescript)		52 items
	5a - Williamson family notes, etc.		25 items
Folder 6	Biographical sketches, clippings, printed items, etc., collected by Moore	1815-1956	14 items
	6a - Biographical sketches taken from various sources (holographic and typescript)		7 items
	6b - Clippings and printed items	1895-1956	6 items

6c - Lottery ticket of David Williamson, Lexington, Kentucky (negative)	June 14, 1815	1 item
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### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS	TALIAFERRO Collection	1815-1956
51		

Typescript and carbon copy of diary kept by Betsy Taliaferro, 1800-1850, from March 20, 1838-April 8, 1839, concerning her trip from Harrisonburg, Louisiana, to New Orleans to Versailles, Kentucky her native home, by steamboat and stage-coach. Includes correspondence, notes, clippings, etc. of Mary T. Moore regarding the diary.

½ box. 6 folders. 103 items. Originals, typescripts, and carbon copies.  
1942.21.1

### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Actors, actresses, and acting	F3, p.11-12, 25-27; F4; F6a
Authors – Kentucky	F1
Baylor, Orval Walker, b.1894	F1
Boats and boating – Mississippi River, 1839	F3, p.2-70
Boats and boating – Ohio River, 1839	F3, p.71-78
Booth, Junius Brutus, 1796-1852	F3, p.11,25-27; F4; F6a
Brand, John, 1775-1849	F3, p.42; F4; F6a
Cave-in-Rock, Illinois, 1839	F3, p.72-73
Celeste, Madame, 1815-1882	F3, p.20-21; F4; F6a
Chickasaw Bluffs, Tennessee, 1839	F3, p.61,64
Clothing – New Orleans, Louisiana, 1839	F3, p.11-13
Coleman, John Winston, Jr., b.1898	F1
Costumes – New Orleans, Louisiana, 1839	F3, p.11-13
Dancers, 1839	F3, p.20-21,29-40; F4
Diaries – Taliaferro, Elizabeth (Williamson), 1839	
Earthquakes – New Madrid, Missouri, 1811	F3, p.67-68
Economic conditions – Louisiana, 1839	F3, p.1-48
Economic conditions – New Orleans, Louisiana, 1839	F3, p.8-27; F4
Flatboats, 1839	F3, p.63,74
Gambling – Steamboats, 1839	F3, p.53,55,64
Genealogy – Taliaferro family	
Genealogy – Williamson family	F5
Hats, 1839	F3, p.12-13
Helena, Arkansas – Travel and description, 1839	F3, p.56

Indians – Attitude towards, 1839 F3, p.64  
 Journals – Taliaferro, Elizabeth (Williamson), 1839  
 Lotteries – Notes, research materials, etc. F4; F6c  
 Lottery ticket – Lexington – Negatives, 1815 F6c  
 Louisiana – Social life and customs, 1839 F3, p.1-48  
 Louisiana – Theater, 1839 F3, p.11-12,19-21,25-27,39-40; F4  
 Merchants – New Orleans, Louisiana, 1839 F3, p.8-27  
 Mississippi River – Navigation, 1839 F3, p.2-70  
 Mississippi River – Shipping and trade, 1839 F3, p.2-70  
 Mississippi River – Steamboats, 1839 F3, p.2-70  
 Moore, Mary (Taylor) Leiper, 1885-1973 F1,4  
 Natchez, Mississippi - Social life and customs, 1895 F6b  
 Navigation, 1839 F3, p.1-78  
 New Madrid, Missouri – Earthquake, 1811 F3, p.67-68  
 New Madrid, Missouri – Travel and description, 1839 F3, p.67-68  
 New Orleans, Louisiana – Social life and customs, 1839 F3, p.8-27  
 Ohio River – Navigation, 1839 F3, p.71-78  
 Ohio River – Shipping and trade, 1839 F3, p.71-78  
 Ohio River – Steamboats, 1839 F3, p.71-78  
 Porter, James D., 1810-1859 F3, p.25; F4  
 Rivers – Travel – Mississippi River, 1839 F3, p.2-70  
 Rivers – Travel – Ohio River, 1839 F3, p.71-78  
 Simpson, Elizabeth (Murfhey), b.1899 F1  
 Social life and customs, 1839  
 Stagecoach lines and travel, 1839 F3, p.79-84  
 Steamboats – *Alabamian*, 1839 F3, p.1-32  
 Steamboats – *General Wayne*, 1839 F3, p.25-77  
 Steamboats, 1839 F3, p.1-78  
 Steamboats – Racing, 1839 F3, p.54-77; F4  
 Steamboats – Vicksburg, 1839 F3, p.48, 54-77  
 Taliaferro, Elizabeth (Williamson), 1800-1850  
 Taliaferro, James Govan, 1798-1876  
 Theater – New Orleans, Louisiana, 1839 F3, p.11-12, 19-21,25-27,39-40; F4; F6a  
 Travel and description, 1939 F3, p.69-84  
 Travel and description – Frankfort, 1839 F3, p.81-82  
 Travel and description – Helena, Arkansas, 1839 F3, p.56  
 Travel and description – Louisiana, 1839 F3, p.1-48  
 Travel and description – Louisville, 1839 F3, p.78-79  
 Travel and description – Memphis, Tennessee, 1839 F3, p.62  
 Travel and description – Mississippi River, 1839 F3, p.2-70  
 Travel and description – New Madrid, Missouri, 1839 F3, p.67-68  
 Travel and description – New Orleans, Louisiana, 1839 F3, p.8-27  
 Travel and description – Ohio River, 1839 F3, p.71-78  
 Travel and description – Vicksburg, Mississippi, 1839 F3, p.43  
 Versailles – Residents of, 1839 F3, p.46-47,83-84; F5  
 Vicksburg, Mississippi – Travel and description, 1839 F3, p.43

Jeffrey 07/16/2012